Canadian Film Weekly
VOICE of the CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

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100 Theatres In Construction

34 Scheduled By Film Classics

Sales policies of Film Classics, which is represented in Canada by I. H. Allen's Astral Films will be discussed at the first international convention of the company in New York at the end of July. Directors of Cinecolor will attend, since Joseph

(Continued on Page 3)

F & H Vs. Famous In Nova Scotia

Franklin and Herschorn Theatre Company Limited brought action in Supreme Court of Nova Scotia against Famous Players Canadian Corporation Limited claiming for an accounting of all monies received by the defendant through the opera-

(Continued on Page 7)

Building Going Ahead Despite High Costs, Decline In Biz

Figures given by the Canadian Film Board of Trade show that at the beginning of 1948 there were 1,606 motion picture theatres in the Dominion. Of this total, seven theatres were located in Newfoundland. This figure is 113 higher than at the beginning of 1947. It is estimated that there are about 100 motion picture theatres now in the course of construction throughout Canada, states a report submitted to the Motion Picture Photographic branch of the USA Chamber of Commerce by Jack K. McFall of the United States Embassy, Montreal. The rest of

(Continued on Page 3)

No Breakdown In Capac Talks

Reports in other trade papers that negotiations between Capac and theatre representatives on the new rate have broken down are untrue, stated N. A. Taylor in Toronto last week. He is participating for the Motion Picture Theatres Association of Ontario.

"I believe matters will be successfully negotiated upon the return of Mr. Low from Europe," he said. William S. Low is general manager for Capac, music royalties' collection agency.

The talks have been amicable all along, say both sides.

MGM Plans 48 Short Subjects

Metro - Goldwyn - Mayer will continue to utilize its short subjects as a laboratory and proving ground for the development of new screen talent and techniques, according to William F. Rodgers, the company's vice-president in charge of sales, in

(Continued on Page 7)

Pic Pioneers' Picnic

Annual picnic of the Canadian Picture Pioneers has been tentatively set for August 24th at the Circle M Ranch.

RENOVATED THEATRES OPEN

Three theatres reopened recently in Canada, after extensive renovations involving major expenditures. In all three a large number of seats were sacrificed in order to assure comfort and ample leg room for patrons and in each case only the original four walls were left standing, everything else having been rebuilt and changed.

Major alterations common to the three houses are new floors, carpetting, foyers, air-conditioning, seats, projection and sound equipment and decorative schemes.

In Toronto, the theatre to undergo this transformation was Famous Players' Runnymede. Formerly seating 1,500 patrons, it can now seat only 1,383, but these will have the benefit of push-back chairs. Smoking is permitted in the loges, with the new ventilation system assuring smoke-free air.

The Garrick Theatre in Halifax also underwent the renewing process. Owned by Garrick Theatres Limited and leased by Odeon Theatres in partnership with Garson Theatres Limited, its seating has dropped from 698 to 640. The main entrance is all vitrolite with ceramic tile for the floor. The foyer is transite with eight-foot square mirrors adorning the walls.

Harry A. Bercovitch's Broadway Theatre in Regina now ranks with the most modern in Canada. Feature of the remodelling job which cost approximately $30,000, was the parabolic type floor, in which the front and back of the auditorium are higher than the centre. Seating is now 716, a loss of 38 from what it was previously.

Ontario's Tax Sheet Has Exhibs Dizzy

Adding headache to boxoffice injury, the four-page form which the Ontario controller of revenue requires exhibitors to fill when returning amusement taxes has them dizzy. The Dominion government used a simple one-page declaration and showmen can't see why they have to fight their way through typographical bushes and inken rivers to satisfy Ontario. The Independents are the ones who are mainly put out, for circuit managers have the benefit of accounting departments to instruct and assist them.

Almost countless are the com-

(Continued on Page 3)

Selander To Direct

Leslie Selander has been signed to direct Jack Wrather's first production for Allied Artists, "Strike it Rich."

Amendment To BC Moving Pix Act

Classification of pictures under the British Columbia Moving Pictures Act was legalized by amendment of Section 7, to which was added the following as subsection 8:

"The Censor may, where he deems it necessary, classify any film as adult entertainment. Where a film is so classified, the Censor shall require that there be displayed prominently the words 'adult entertainment only' in such of the advertising of the film as he deems necessary."

Ontario follows this policy.

'Urubu' To UA

"Urubu," first picture produced by World Adventures, Incorporated, will be distributed by United Artists, a pact having been concluded between the two companies. Picture was filmed in the Matte Grosso jungles of Brazil.

Option Audie Murphy

Allied Artists has taken an optional contract on the services of Audie Murphy, outstanding hero of World War II, for the leading role in "Bad Boy," which will be produced by Paul Short. Picture is being sponsored by the Variety Clubs International.

Northwest Stampede

A Calgary and Edmonton BOXOFFICE STAMPEDE headed for Winnipeg-Vancouver. An Eagle Lion (Hwd.) COLOR hit from INTERN'L FILM DISTRIBUTORS.

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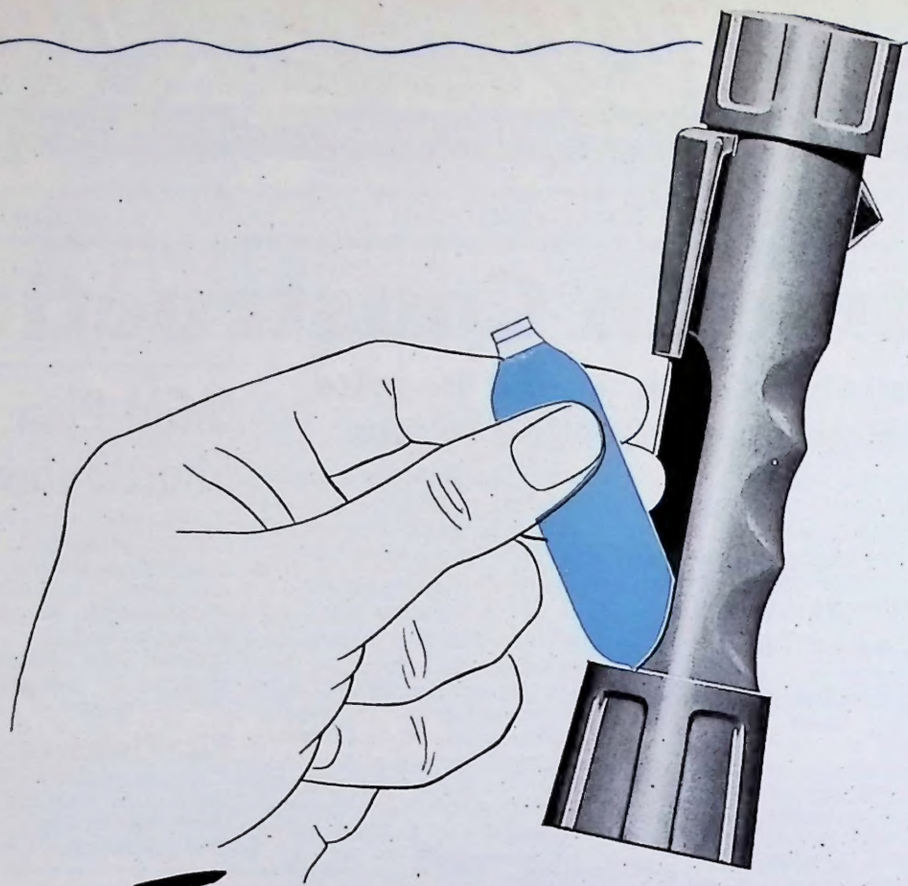

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Exhibs Befuddled By Ont. Tax Form

(Continued from Page 1)

plaints and pleas for assistance received by the Motion Picture Theatres Association of Ontario and its secretary, Arch Jolley, has taken the matter up with Chester S. Walters, deputy provincial treasurer, and Phillip T. Clarke, assistant controller of revenue. The Hon. J. Earl Lawson, chairman of the taxation committee of the motion picture branch of the Toronto board of trade, has also had the problem put before him.

Following is a letter received by the MPTAO from an Independent and his beef is typical:

"I have just finished making returns for May and June under the Hospitals Tax Act and I'm still mad. Have you seen the form? In case you haven't I'm enclosing one and also a copy of the Dominion War Excise Tax form. If Ottawa could collect tax with this form why can't Toronto use one as simple? Theirs is unnecessarily complicated. To fill in pages two and three would take a tabulating typewriter and what small theatre has one? The information on page four has to be duplicated on pages two and three. Note that in the upper right hand corner of page one that they ask for a financial statement of month's receipts. Pages two and three constitute a financial statement of receipts as far as theatres are concerned. To add insult to injury the Controller of Revenue seems to think that it's a privilege to collect tax for that dept. Lawyers, banks and collection agencies get 8 to 10% for collecting but we have to pay a $1 licence. Quebec wholesalers, even Ontario wholesalers doing business in Quebec, get 10% for collecting that province's 2% sales tax.

"Can anything be done about having this form simplified? I'm getting after our member to see if anything can be done. Would be interested in knowing if the M.P.T.A. of Ont. can do anything to help out exhibitors in this matter."

It is hoped that the Hon. Leslie Frost, provincial treasurer, whose attention has been called to the situation, will advise reconsideration.

Trans World Buys Spanish Best Seller

"Dona Barbara" best-seling Spanish novel by Romulo Gallegos, president of Venezuela and noted novelist and educator, has been acquired by Trans World Films for filming in English. Trans World, a newly-organized independent company, is headed by Jacques Grinieff.

100 Theatres In Work Throughout Canada

(Continued from Page 1)

the report, prepared for release by Nathan D. Golden, head of the branch, follows:

The president's annual report to stockholders of Odeon Theatres of Canada, the J. Arthur Rank theatre chain, reveals that in 1947 five theatres were opened and that since the beginning of 1948 four more have been placed in operation. If present planning materializes ten additional units will be opened before the end of the year, at which time Odeon will be represented by 19 "of the most modern new theatres in America" in the most important Canadian film territories. Further expansion, according to the president, will proceed as availability of labor and materials, building costs, and the orders and regulations of government, permit. The policy of the Odeon chain is to play both United States and British pictures. A recent British statement revealed that Odeon owned 107 theatres in Canada and booked in 31 others.

Famous Players Canadian Corporation has launched a program to build 18 theatres throughout Canada, the first one of which was opened in a semi-suburban area in Toronto in March. Three of the new group of theatres will be in the Toronto area and will be first-run houses. The company is also engaged in an extensive program of modernization with one of the largest replacement items consisting of the importation of new sound and projection equipment from the United States. No difficulty is being had in acquiring this equipment. Approximately $3,000,000 is involved in the modernization, replacement and building plan. The annual report of this theatre chain for 1947 discloses that profits in that year set an all-time high of $3,150,000 (after deduction of income and excess profits taxes), which was $320,000 in excess of the 1946 result.

Effective May 19th, the 20 per cent federal tax on theatre admissions was abolished. The effect of this action will be different in each of the provinces as some will continue the tax as a provincial source of revenue, while others propose to let the theatre-going public benefit from the Dominion Government action. In the face of an unofficial estimate that theatre patronage had dropped this year about 15 per cent, motion picture producers, distributors, and exhibitors now entertain high hopes that this reduction in taxation will tend to stimulate theatre attendances and bring it up to previous levels.

Plan BC Auditorium 1,700-Seat Theatre

The British Columbia branch of the Community Planners' Association of Canada, an unofficial organization to further the cause of planned communities and districts, recently proposed the building of a 6,000 seat auditorium combined with a 1,700 seat theatre in downtown Vancouver.

Cost of the project has been estimated by Hugh Martin, chairman, at between two and three million dollars and he also advanced plans for backing the enterprise. A model will be constructed and detailed plans for the building will be laid before city council in November.

Final Title Set

"Racing Luck" is the release title for Columbia's "Photo Finish."

Toronto Staffs Plan Wasaga Beach Fun

Staffs of all Toronto theatres, including Famous Players, B&F, 20th Century, Odeon, etc., are invited to attend an outing at Wasaga Beach on Sunday, July 25th. Buses will leave from the Bay Street terminal at 7.30 a.m. sharp, returning shortly after midnight. Fare is $3 return.

Feature of the trip will be a Miss Wasaga Beach contest, for which all cashiers, usherettes and candy girls are eligible. Other competitions for prizes will include swimming, racing and novelty stunts. Program lists, in addition to the contests, swimming, horseback riding, bowling and dancing.

For further information contact Steve Caren at the Tivoli Theatre.

34 Scheduled By Film Classics

(Continued from Page 1)

Bernhard is president of that company as well as Film Classics. Bernard Kranze, general sales manager, will take a prominent part in the convention.

Film Classics will release 34 films for 1948-49, of which half will be in Cinecolor, as will the 12-chapter serial, "Silver King."

Three of the new productions scheduled for early release are "Sofia," "Miraculous Journey," and "Unknown Island," all in Cinecolor. In the cast of "Sofia" are Gene Raymond, Sigrid Gurie, Patricia Morison and Mischa Auer. "Miraculous Journey," a melodrama, was produced by Sigmund Neufeld, and directed by Peter Stewart. The cast includes Rory Calhoun, Audrey Long, Virginia Grey, June Story, Thurston Hall and Carole Donn. "Unknown Island" was produced by Albert Jay Cohen, and directed by Jack Bernhard. The cast includes Virginia Grey, Phil Reed and Barton MacLane.

The rest of the schedule includes:

"Return to Treasure Island," in Cinecolor, produced by Alan Posner and Sam X. Abarbanel; "Babes in Toyland," in Cinecolor, produced by Boris Morros; "Daughter of Ramona," in Cinecolor, produced by Martin Mooney and Samuel Goldwyn, Jr.; "God's Children," in Cinecolor, produced by W. Lee Wilder; "Florentine Chest," to be produced in Italy by Dario Sabatello, with dialogue in English; "Capri Magic" also to be produced in Italy by Dario Sabatello with English dialogue; six western, all in Cinecolor, to be produced by Walter Bachelor, two of them, "Hellgate" and "Gay Street;" three pictures to be produced by Gregory, Cook and Griffith, the first, featuring Boris Karloff and Bela Lugosi, tentatively titled "The Strange Case of Malcolm Craig."

Also a State Department story, as yet untitled; a large-budget western in Cinecolor; a picture starring Milton Berle; "Bar Mothers," produced by John Rogers; "Fatima," in Cinecolor; "Pocahontas," in Cinecolor; two "Falcon" pictures to be produced by W. Lee Wilder; "Shark Man," to be produced by Insular Films Inc., and three "Inner Sanctum" pictures to be produced by M.R.S. Pictures, Inc., from the Simon and Schuster stories.

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HYE BOSSIN, Managing Editor

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True Story

Observanda

The Blessed Silence

Now and then each of us is flattered by a request for advice from someone who can't make up his mind for himself. But a man I was told about the other day found himself pondering the problem of a person who didn't know that the aforementioned problem even existed.

This man travelled through a large and sparsely-settled area in the Maritimes. He found himself between fishing villages one stormy night and rather than risk the road that ran along the shore, sought shelter. He found it in a lonely little cottage by the ocean.

A pleasant old lady, alone because her husband was at sea, welcomed and fed him. When it was time to retire she gave him a candle and showed him to his room. When he was in bed and about to blow out the candle, something caught his attention which made him hold his breath.

As the tongues of light licked the walls here and there for a fraction of a second the wallpaper gleamed and glinted like a tapestry in the sun. Then he went to sleep and in the morning, again attracted by the wallpaper, examined it closely.

"I noticed your wallpaper," he said to the old lady at breakfast. "It's quite unusual."

"It is nice, isn't it?" she replied proudly.

"Do you have any set aside?" he asked.

"No, we used it all up," she answered. "I would give you a piece off the wall as a sample but it won't come off. You see, we pasted it on with fish glue."

The man, as he asked more questions, observed that this was the neat and friendly home of people in very modest circumstances. But he was listening hard as the old lady explained that this wallpaper had been among the contents of a large sealed box which had been washed ashore.

He paid and thanked the lady, who then busied herself with housework. For a while he sat there and smoked, lost in thought, then said goodbye. He took a last look at this peaceful and happy home, then left, satisfied that he had come to a wise decision in permitting her the bliss of ignorance.

What he did not tell the old lady was that her unique wallpaper, so permanently pasted, was made up of United Kingdom £5 notes, each of which was worth about $25 in Canadian money.

* * *

Mackenzie Memorial Museum

Last year I wrote a column of protest against the further neglect of the sad and shabby-looking building on Bond Street in which lived William Lyon Mackenzie, the great-grandfather of our retiring Prime Minister, William Lyon Mackenzie King.

The building was presented to Mackenzie in 1859 by his admirers and he died in it in 1861. For years the only sign of its former dignity was the granite block in its front which identified it and told the story.

Now this last residence of "The Little Rebel" who influenced democratic reforms in Canada is being renovated.

I was told last year by one of those who controlled the property that it would be fixed up when funds were available. Mementos of Mackenzie will be placed in the building and it will be opened to the public. At least I hope that is what the activity there now means.

There seems to be a revival of interest in Mackenzie, a tempestuous man who turned the turbulence he created into the ill-fated rebellion of 1837. The announced retirement of his great-grandson has probably inspired some of it.

Recently Blair Fraser wrote an excellent article about Mackenzie in Maclean's and it carried a colored picture worth framing by his present-day admirers. Too bad Fraser didn't include the story of the old house.

The striking Mackenzie memorial in Queen's Park is also suffering from neglect. Erected in 1937, the centennial of the rebellion, a small pond is incorporated in its design. This was drained when it became a hazard for children, who waded in it, and the bottom filled with pebbles. It's an eyesore. Why not fill it with flowers?

Yesterday's Suckers

I am in the course of rereading those tremendously entertaining "Candid Chronicles" by the late Hector Charlesworth, the first volume of which was issued by MacMillan's in 1925 and the last—of three—in 1937. This last volume, "I'm Telling You," contains a chapter, "Wanderings in the West," and in it Charlesworth, after discussing oil and other swindles practised about 1929, wrote:

"One of the crazes with which I came in personal contact was confined largely to the city of Calgary. After Hollywood commenced to come into the public eye as a great centre for the production of motion pictures, a good many communities in the West and East began asking themselves why they should not become equally eminent in the same industry, and there were plenty of promoters willing and even anxious to promote their ambitions. Few stopped to realize that the real reason for the centralization of motion picture production at Hollywood was the climate of Southern California, a climate which provides an enormous percentage of sunny days in the course of the year, and is so mild that it permits of continuous instead of seasonal activity. The Canadian city which became most imbued with the superstition that it could rival Hollywood was Calgary, and its citizens were well and truly shaken down before the promoters got through with them. There is plenty of sunlight in Calgary, but extremes of temperature make it one of the least suitable centres in the world for such an enterprise."

It's too bad Charlesworth isn't alive to see the lively production scene before us now. There is certainly nothing fly-by-night or amateurish about our contemporary film makers.

* * *

Typodermic Injections

Well known radio hoke huckster, who has an inflated noggin, was being dehydrated by a whip-tongued lad. "How green is your envy?" the huckster cracked. "How tall is your corn?" was the topper from the derider . . . **Observation:** The only trouble with being at your peak is that you never know it until later . . . **For me this** will go down in history as the summer without watermelons. Why doesn't someone make a political issue of that? Us watermelon voters amount to plenty . . . **They say Jules Levey,** the former Canadian, will produce a film in Quebec . . . **Big feature** at the house of the John Heggies is a newly-born femme star. It's a wonderful booking, says Pop, a Famous booker . . . **Those who saw** "Sins of the Fathers" at the Audio party say Paul Maynard has a big moneymaker on his hands.

Sam Collis has quit as general manager of Telephoto Industries, Ltd. because of policy disagreement . . . **Sam Fingold** hospitalized after spraining something in his back while playing tennis . . . **We'll be closing** our offices from July 26th to August 9th so we can have a vacation. Bet you don't even miss us . . . **The Casket,** which is the name of a newspaper in Antigonish, panned movies in a recent editorial . . . **Perhaps** the best participation stunt in years was the October Man contest, which is still being worked in different cities and is attracting thousands of letters. The credit for this idea belongs to Tom Pacey, manager of the Odeon, Winnipeg, and it is being used over the whole circuit.

Is it true, as rumor has it, that Quebec Productions has a feature sked lined up? . . . **So many references** to Canada are cropping up in screen dialogue these days that someone suggested the other day that it was being overdone . . . **Joe Marks,** SRO chief in Canada, has succeeded Charlie Weiner on the Board of Trade . . . **Listened to CBC's** "Songs From the Movies" and it seemed to me that the script writer didn't know that Jerome Kern had passed on . . . **A toy gun wielder** with an English accent got $200 from the Imperial's Victoria Street boxoffice. Esther Newson, the cashier, smartly tried to give him some $1 bills but he saw the larger ones and demanded them.

THE PICK OF THE PICTURES

Canadian Film Weekly
VOICE of the CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

REVIEWS INFORMATION RATINGS

Vol. 13, No. 29 REVIEWS FROM FILM DAILY, NEW YORK $2.00 Per Annum

Furia

with Isa Pola, Rossano Brazzi
Astral Films 89 Mins.

THIS ITALIAN-MADE FILM IS STRICTLY ADULT FARE: SHOULD BE A LONGTIME TENANT IN ART SPOTS.

The censors had a go at this Italian-made film. It has been trimmed. Yet, it remains a lusty and dramatic sex story handled in terms that are generally verboten here but taken for granted by continental audiences.

The production has the benefits of artistic handling, fine phtography, understanding direction and performances that are sincere, effective portrayals. It was produced in and near Rome this year.

Sultry, warmblooded Isa Pola, wife to Gino Cervi, a bigtime farmer and horsebreeder, develops an affair with Brazzi almost in the first reel. With the arrival of Cervi's daughter, Adriana Benetti, for a holiday, the lovers are discovered by the girl during her father's absence.

Cervi, meanwhile, has been growing suspicious of the young Brazzi. Another night he returns while Brazzi is having a rendezvous with Miss Pola. The girl, Miss Pola's stepdaughter, warns the lovers and takes Miss Pola's place. She is discovered by her father. She and Brazzi are cast out. They are forced to marry.

In time the painful association of the pair is alleviated and they consummate their marriage. Then Miss Pola entices Brazzi again. He cannot resist. Cervi gets stewed and unable to bear the brunt of tavern gossip which points up his unfaithful wife's affair with Brazzi, dashes off in a rage and is killed. After a troublous session with Miss Benetti, Brazzi decides to break with Miss Pola. Their final meeting is witnessed by "Rocco" a halfwit farmhand who is aware of their previous meetings. He misinforms Miss Benetti of the meeting. She leaves home and becomes ill. Brazzi feels Miss Pola is to blame. He seeks her out.

Miss Pola meanwhile decides to go away. "Rocco" murders her. Brazzi is arrested. Later he is released when "Rocco" confesses on Miss Pola's grave and Miss Benetti is at hand.

CAST: Isa Palo, Rossano Brazzi, Gino Cervi, Adriana Benetti, Umberto Spadaro, Camillo Pilatto, Bella Starace Sainati.

CREDITS: A Franchini-AGIC Production; Directed by Goffredo Allessandrini; Screenplay by Goffredo Allessandrini; Edited by Herman Weinberg.

DIRECTION, First Rate. PHOTOGRAPHY, Very Good.

Fury at Furnace Creek

with Victor Mature, Coleen Gray
20th-Fox 88 Mins.

TOP WESTERN FARE SHOULD GIVE PLENTY SATISFACTION TO GENERAL AUDIENCE.

Top grade western fare, "Fury at Furnace Creek" has an imaginative injection of interesting developments in its script, is launched on its course by the able direction of Bruce Humberstone and should no doubt score on the boxoffice target. There's a full complement of fireworks. Indians figure prominently. Romance is smoothly worked into the pattern. A fresh brand of comedy provokes laughter. Dramatic content is developed in a logical manner. Production values and performances are superior.

Two brothers, one a ne'er do well—Mature—the other an Army officer—Glenn Langan—are out to clear their late father's name and reputation. He was implicated in an Indian massacre at Fort Furnace Creek which has all the earmarks of skullduggery on the part of a silver mining syndicate. Mature follows the trial of Reginald Gardner, a weakling who might talk under pressure. Langan arrives on the scene. Gardner is killed. Langan faces trial for his murder. He is found guilty but, aided by Mature, escapes.

By this time Albert Dekker, the real guilty party in the proceedings, has the wind up and with his cohorts chases Mature and Langan into the hills. Langan gets away. Mature is wounded. By pulling a neat switch Mature eliminates his pursuit even when he is trapped by Dekker who meets his end when an Apache, Little Dog, who has been gunning for him all along, lets him have it—twice. Mature recover. Miss Gray is at his bedside.

Yarn's developments are sustained throughout by good performances. Charles Kemper supplies comedy relief as a Saturday night bad boy who spends Sunday sober, chained to a big log which he is able to lug into the nearest saloon for a spot of refreshment.

CAST: Victor Mature, Coleen Gray, Glenn Langan, Reginald Gardner, Albert Dekker, Fred Clark, Charles Kemper, Robert Warwick, George Cleveland.

CREDITS: Producer, Fred Kohlmar; Director, Bruce Humberstone; Written by Charles G. Booth; Suggested by a story by David Garth; Photography, Harry Jackson.

DIRECTION, Expert. PHOTOGRAPHY, Fine.

Romance on The High Seas

with Jack Carson, Janis Paige, Don Defore, Doris Day, Oscar Levant. (Technicolor)
Warners 99 Mins.

DEVASTATING DORIS DAY SOCKO IN FIRST STANZA; THIS ONE WILL HAVE THEM BUYING HEAVILY INTO RICH SHARES OF SUMMER ENTERTAINMENT; AND SHOULD GO $ PLACES.

In the first place it must be reported here that Doris Day, making her initial screen appearance in this musical comedy, travelogue, song and dance production and what have you is no less than devastating as a comedienne and singer.

Once aboard the cruise ship after things get perking in the matter of plot development the narrative is studded with interludes that include a rhythmic Cuban do, a session of Calypso and of course Miss Day meeting and having a session with the Page Cavanaugh Trio.

Well, what it's all about is that Janis Paige, married to Don Defore, a drugstore magnate, wants to go on a belated honeymoon every year but the press of business keeps her spouse tied to his desk. Conniving with S. Z. Sakall, uncle to Defore, she engages travelstruck Miss Day to take a cruise to SA while she has a looksee at her husband for she thinks he has been playing around with his secretary, Leslie Brooks. Defore in turn suspects Miss Paige so he hires Jack Carson to trail her.

First thing you know they get more than warm as they romance through the tropics and at Havana Oscar Levant, frustrated piano playing sweetie to Miss Day comes aboard, having hocked his shirt for passage.

As they roll down to Rio no one tells the other the truth and once in Brazil the proceedings boil up into a potable brew of bedroom farce and kindred elements which conclude with all the principals meeting at a hotel and an understanding by all concerned. Not, however, before the Technicolored setting erupts in a wild kaleidoscope of song, dance and general merriment.

CAST: Jack Carson, Janis Paige, Don Defore, Doris Day, Oscar Levant, S. Z. Sakall, Fortunio Bonanova, Eric Blore.

CREDITS: Producer, Alex Gottlieb; Michael Curtiz; Screenplay, Julius J. and Philip G. Epstein; Additional dialogue I. A. L. Diamond; From a story by S. Pondal Rios, Carlos A. Olivari; Photography, Elwood Bredell.

DIRECTION: Tops. PHOTOGRAPHY, Fine.

Anna Karenina

with Vivien Leigh, Ralph Richardson, Kieron Moore
20th-Fox-Korda 110 Mins.

A WOMAN'S PICTURE OF LOFTY MERIT, THIS LATEST VERSION OF THE TOLSTOY TRAGEDY STANDS TO DO A REPEAT BOXOFFICE PERFORMANCE; ABLY PLAYED, IT HAS PRODUCTION OF A HIGH ORDER.

With just about every woman in the land a potential customer to pay her money and view this fine version of Leo Tolstoy's classic tragedy which has easily achieved that status on film, the successful playing of this picture can be gauged by checking up on past performances.

First in 1915, then again 20 years later, and now in 1948 Tolstoy's inspection and dissection of the wages of adultery and illicit love and passion in old Russia emerges once more an affecting dramatic display rendered with artistry and skill against a fine British production background by London Films.

Mounting is expansive and expensive. Vivien Leigh and Ralph Richardson in the key roles give tellingly of their performing talents. It has scholarly fidelity to the period that pervades the proceedings constantly and makes for credulity. And in every other respect the film measures up favorably to high modern standards.

No soporific at the boxoffice, Vivien Leigh is smartly spaced in her screen appearances. "Anna" is a role she does very well by. As her husband in the proceedings Ralph Richardson gives the story fine moments and stanzas of delineation.

In brief outline "Anna Karenina" depicts how a woman in love rejects her husband, neglects her son and flees her immediate world to be with her lover. It is a pattern of developing unhappiness touched with forgiveness and then reversion to an irresistible passion which ultimately results in death. It is basic triangulation of husband-wife-lover tinged with shafts of scorn and hurt directed at the hapless by the moral code of the period.

CAST: Vivien Leigh, Ralph Richardson, Kieron Moore, Hugh Dempster, Mary Kerridge, Marie Lohr, Frank Tickle.

CREDITS: Produced by Alexander Korda-London Films; Director, Julien Duvivier; Screenplay, Jean Anouilh, Guy Morgan, Julien Duvivier; Photography, Henri Alekan.

NFBoard's Shows For Tourists

Something new has been added to the growing list of tourist activities across Canada. At nearly 50 major tourist points motion pictures of Canada and Canadian subjects are being screened regularly. Tourists planning to cover the Dominion see places they expect to visit, while those visiting only one or two points are being shown a great deal of the rest of Canada and will probably be interested in seeing more of the country.

Practically all the films screened are in color. The screening program for tourists, on a national scale, is being operated by the National Film Board through its regional and field staffs, with the co-operation of the local authorities, including parks superintendents, government and civic officials, libraries, theatres, community groups, film councils, etc. In Ottawa the programs are screened in the lecture hall of the National Museum. Among places for showings are Minaki and Pictou Lodges, Bigwin Inn, Niagara Falls, Highland Inn, Royal Muskoka Hotel, Devine Lake Lodge, Banff, Jasper, Waterton Lakes, Elk Island Park, as well as a number of Quebec and Maritime resorts, lodges, camps, hotels and parks.

Programs include films on salmon fishing in British Columbia, tuna fishing off Nova Scotia, a flight across Canada by TCA, Banff, Jasper, Winnipeg, the Calgary Stampede, hockey, skiing, the St. Lawrence and Peace Rivers, the Great Lakes, the Isle of Orleans, the Canadian north, the Alaska Highway and many more.

Brazzi To Star In 'Little Women'

Rossano Brazzi, one of Italy's top actors and star of "Furia," "We the Living" and "The King's Jester," will have a starring role in MGM's production of Louisa May Alcott's classic, "Little Women." Others in the cast include June Allyson, Peter Lawford, Elizabeth Taylor, Margaret O'Brien and Janet Leigh.

Robert Florey To Meg 'Outpost in Morocco'

Robert Florey has been signed by Producer Samuel Bischoff to direct "Outpost in Morocco," starring George Raft and Akim Tamiroff.

Location shooting was completed more than a month ago when Raft and other cast members together with production and camera crews spent several months in Morocco. United Artists will release the film.

ECHOES and REFLECTIONS

Boxoffice Barometers

(From the Toronto Financial Post)

Canadian movie distributors and exhibitors are taking more than an academic interest in the U.S. Supreme Court decisions against several long established practices which exist in the United States and Canada. Distributors and chain exhibitors in this country say these decisions are not likely to have any effect here and emphasize that their operations are carried on without any direct control from across the line.

The court in Washington has ordered the film interests, after 10 years of litigation started by the Justice Department's antitrust division, to change their ways in regard to block booking, pooling, clearances, and fixing of minimum admission prices as a condition of film rental. All but the last of these are carried on in Canada.

Under block booking, theatre operators contract to rent films sight unseen, often before they have been made, and take what they get. Pooling is an arrangement by which normally competitive theatres exchange films and divide their revenue on a pro rata basis. Clearances stipulate the length of time which must elapse between showing of films at first-run theatres and neighborhood houses.

Principal agitation in the U.S. has been between large production, distribution and exhibition interests and independents who maintain they are too often left out in the cold.

Sporadic jousts along these lines in Canada have flared up and petered out; one large exhibitor attributes this to the fact that our population is more widely scattered and tensions in the trade do not occur to the same extent.

Independent theatre operators in Canada, however, take the view that this may be the time to work for adjustment of some of these practices. They claim that practices regarded as unethical by the U.S. Supreme Court exist in the industry here and should be corrected as soon as possible before the situation develops to the same extent it has in the United States.

Canadian film men who oppose the independents' point of view say their main concern is that Hollywood and British movie makers will keep on making good, and better, pictures that Canadians will keep on paying to see.

The box office tells them promptly and without fail whether the public approves of their wares and their way of doing business.

Maylia Set To Star In Boston Blackie Pic

Maylia, Chinese actress who scored a hit in her film debut in Columbia's "To the Ends of the Earth," will return to that studio for the leading feminine role in "Boston Blackie's Honor," with Chester Morris. The film, which Seymour Friedman directs with Rudolph Flothow producing, has a Chinatown locale. Richard Lane, George E. Stone and Frank Sully head the supporting cast.

Following her appearance in "To the Ends of the Earth," Maylia appeared in "Singapore" for Universal-International, then retired temporarily from the screen to await the birth of her child.

Joseph Cotten Cast In 'The Third Man'

Joseph Cotten will have the starring role in Carol Reed's production, "The Third Man," which goes before the cameras this October in Vienna.

"The Third Man," a new unpublished novel by Graham Greene, is one of the films being produced under the terms of an agreement entered into recently by David O. Selznick and Sir Alexander Korda to produce films for world distribution.

Carol Reed will produce and direct "The Third Man." A top actress to star with Cotten will be selected by Selznick and Korda shortly. It is not yet determined whether she will be an American or an English actress.

Charles Skouras Leads Earners

The man who earned the biggest salary in the USA during 1946 was Charles P. Skouras, theatre circuit operator, according to a treasury report. Skouras earned $985,300 as president of National Theatre Amusement Co. Inc., and Fox West Coast Agency Corp. He was one of three Californians who topped the new list of more than 900 individuals who had earned more than $75,000 during the calendar year 1946 and fiscal year ending in 1947.

Skouras was followed by William Wyler, movie director for Samuel Goldwyn Productions Inc., $432,000.

Screen Actress Betty Grable was tops among women wage earners with $229,333 from Twentieth Century-Fox Film Corp. Her husband, Bandleader Harry James, earned $100,036 from the same company.

The figures represented salaries before taxes. Under the old rate, the tax varied from $47,324 on $80,000 of income to $840,146 on one million dollars without exemptions. The list did not cover income from investment.

Bing Crosby got $325,000 from Paramount Pictures, Inc.; Hedy Lamarr earned $179,800 from the Mars Film Corp., California; Marlene Dietrich, $100,000 from Paramount; Maureen O'Hara, $199,330 from Fox; Dorothy Lamour, $175,083 from Paramount; and Gene Tierney, $151,083 from Fox.

The list also showed that Robert E. Sherwood, playwright, earned $208,000 from Samuel Goldwyn Productions. Paramount Pictures paid comedian Bob Hope $275,000 and actor Alan Ladd $212,000.

Plans Fourth Theatre

Construction is expected to start shortly on a 660-seat theatre, the fourth in St. Thomas, Ontario. Builders will be National Theatre Services, Limited.

Stars Assigned For Wanger's 'Tulsa'

Pedro Armendariz and Robert Preston have been signed by Walter Wanger for the male starring roles opposite Susan Hayward in his Technicolor production, "Tulsa," at Eagle Lion (Hollywood) Studios.

"Tulsa," which is slated to go before the cameras late this month, carries a budget of more than $1,500,000, and is planned as a cinematic saga bringing to the screen a segment of American history in the manner of "Cimmaron" and "Stage Coach."

MGM Plans 48 Short Subjects

(Continued from Page 1)

announcing MGM's 1948-49 short subject program.

"We recognize the impetus the war gave to short subjects in the nation's theatres," says Rodgers. "The avalanche of these war-stimulated informational films had a salutary effect on short subject production immediately following the termination of hostilities. Audiences became accustomed to the information film presented within the framework of entertainment. The scope of the short subject was thus increased, and its importance as an individual screen medium, apart from that of the feature picture, has been equally broadened.

"Despite increased production costs MGM expects to maintain the high level of excellence which has been a hallmark of our short product since we evolved the principle that making good shorts is good business. In the future, as in the past, we will continue to devote comparatively as much effort, time and money to the production of shorts as to the production of features.

"Exhibitor and audience acceptance, plus an enviable record of Academy Awards, have given MGM the acknowledged shorts leadership in the industry. We realize that only by continuing to deliver the kind of short product that has given us that leadership can we retain it.

"We have always felt that the short subject offers unique opportunity to experiment with new ideas, techniques and talents. We know from past experience that the star, the writer or director of today's short might become an important part of tomorrow's feature.

"Our 1948-49 shorts program represents the accumulated experience and knowledge of many years of shorts making. The emphasis, as always, will be on entertainment. Included in the program will be many subjects which are geared to extra box-office attention through their exploitation and promotion possibilities."

MGM will deliver a program of 48 short subjects next year including four two-reel specials, and the following one-reelers: 16 Technicolor cartoons (including the Tom and Jerry series); four gold medal reprint cartoons in Technicolor; ten Pete Smith Specialties; six John Nesbitt Passing Parades; and six Fitz-Patrick Traveltalks in Technicolor. In addition, MGM will offer the News of the Day.

Hedy Lamarr Cast In New DeMille Pic

Hedy Lamarr has been chosen to play Delilah in Cecil B. DeMille's Biblical drama, "Samson and Delilah," scheduled to go before the cameras in October at Paramount's Hollywood studio. DeMille's search for a Delilah began a year ago last February when he started seeking a girl unknown to film audiences to play the part. The approach of the shooting date forced the producer to turn to trained actresses when it appeared that non-professionals would require months of training before a choice could be made.

"Samson and Delilah" returns DeMille to a medium which has made him famous throughout the world. The picture will be his fourth from the Bible, the previous three being "The Ten Commandments" (1923). "The King of Kings" (1926) and "The Sign of the Cross" (1932). DeMille is completing plans to send a unit to the Holy Land to film background shots in the area where Samson encountered Delilah and the invading Philistines, about 110 B.C.

King Baggot Passes At 68 In Hollywood

King Baggot, one of the top leading men of the early silent screen and later a successful director, died last week in a Hollywood sanitarium at the age of 68.

From 1909, when he left a stock company to join the infant motion-picture industry, until a year ago, when illness forced his retirement, Baggott was active in the film world. In recent years his roles were confined to bit parts. He played many prominent roles from 1911 until the mid-twenties. His directing successes included "Tumbleweed," starring the late William S. Hart.

Para Names Stars

Alan Ladd and Donna Reed will star in Paramount's forthcoming film, "One Woman," based on Tiffany Thayer's best-selling novel.

Test Director Forms Production Company

Stacy Keach, former test director for RKO and Universal, has formed a new producing company, Stacy Keach Productions

Immediate production of a series of pictures to be filmed in Texas, to be known as the Texas Rangers series, is planned. Authorization to use the title as well as access to story material in the files of the Texas Rangers has been assured the new company by the State of Texas.

Three Benefit Shows For Heroes' Families

Three theatres in Toronto's east end ran benefit performances last week for the special fund to aid the families of the three men who lost their lives in a well on O'Connor Drive. Tragedy was caused by carbon monoxide gas accumulating in the bottom of the well and overcoming the first man, who drowned as a result. The other two suffered the same fate in rescue attempts.

The benefits were held the same night by Odeon Theatres' Odeon-Danforth, 20th Century Theatres' Community and B&F's Prince of Wales, with all expenses taken care of by the individual companies and the exchanges giving the films gratis.

Anna Neagle Again Wins Gold Medal

For the third time Anna Neagle has won the British gold medal for the best actress performance for the year 1947. Award was made for her acting in "The Courtneys of Curzon Street." Her previous winning performances were in "Victoria the Great" and "Piccadilly Incident." Votes for Miss Neagle set a record.

Only other actress to receive the medal three times was Greer Garson for her Hollywood performances. Sir Laurence Olivier is the only triple crown-winning actor. Best male performance in 1947 went to John Mills who was a half a point ahead of Michael Wilding.

Femme Lead Signed

William Moss, producer for Eagle Lion (Hollywood) Films, has signed Peggy Ann Garner for the leading role opposite Lon McCallister in "The Big Cat."

'The Lucky Stiff'

Dorothy Lamour, Brian Donlevy and Claire Trevor will star in "The Lucky Stiff," Bernard Luber's Amusement Enterprises' production for United Artists release.

Jane Wyman To Star In WB's 'Serenade'

The dramatic ability which has won Academy Award nomination for Jane Wyman and new mentions for like honors for her role in Warner Brothers' forthcoming release of "Johnny Belinda," resulted in her receiving one of the year's most coveted assignments—the feminine lead in "Serenade," to be filmed as a Michael Curtiz Production for Warner Brothers release. Miss Wyman will be directed in the James M. Cain classic by Curtiz with Jerry Wald producing.

F & H Vs. Famous In Nova Scotia

(Continued from Page 1)

tion of the Orpheus Theatre and for a declaration that a contract respecting the share of profits is a continuing agreement.

Following completion of evidence, the action was adjourned without date for argument by counsel, J. A. Walker, KC, for the plaintiff company, and C. B. Smith, KC, for the defendant company.

Joseph M. Franklin, president of Franklin and Herschorn Theatre Company, said that under an agreement made in 1936, Famous Players agreed to pay his company 25 per cent of all monies received through the operation of the Orpheus Theatre by Halifax Theatres Limited by way of dividends.

He was notified by letter from Famous Players that it was now the owner of the Orpheus Thetre and did not intend to renew the lease of the theatre to Halifax Theatres Limited, he testified. He said also that he had not received a notice of cancellation of the agreement between his company and Famous Players.

On cross-examination, he stated he was not complaining that Famous Players received any dividends of which his company did not receive 25 per cent.

Schary Quits RKO As Pix Dropped

Dore Schary, head of production at RKO for the past 18 months, resigned recently following cancellation of a number of films at the orders of Howard Hughes, new controlling stockholder of the company.

The pictures dropped were "Battleground," a special project of Dore Schary which Jesse Lasky and Walter McEwen were to produce; "Bed of Roses," "Setup" and "Evening in Modesto."

WB Release Title

"Flaxy Martin" is the release title for the Warner Brothers' film known in production as "Smart Money."

Stars Assigned For Columbia's 'Hearsay'

William Holden and Lee J. Cobb will star in Columbia's "Hearsay," psychological melodrama which Buddy Adler will produce with Rudy Mate directing.

"Hearsay" will be Buddy Adler's first Columbia production and Rudy Mate's first full directorial credit. Mate, former cameraman, was co-director of "It Had to Be You" and producer of "The Return of October."

← something new has been added to motion pictures!

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